

REMARKS

In the Office Action the Examiner noted that claims 1-21 are pending in the application, and the Examiner rejected all claims. By this Amendment, claim 13 has been amended. No new matter has been presented. Thus, claims 1-21 remain pending in the application. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below, and reconsideration of all rejected claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §102

In item 2 on pages 2-7 the Examiner rejected claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,751,373, issued to Ohyama et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Ohyama"). However, the Examiner fails to discuss the §102 rejections of claims 7 and 18, which are later rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. Therefore, the Applicant assumed that claims 7 and 18 were erroneously listed on page 2 of the Office Action. The Applicant respectfully traversed the Examiner's rejections of these claims.

Claim 1 of the present application recites "a memory unit storing major function information and additional function information", and "a controller causing the additional function information stored in the memory unit to be displayed and causing an additional function that is selected based on the displayed additional function information to be performed, in response to the remote control signal containing a request to display the additional function information." The Applicant respectfully submits that Ohyama does not disclose at least this feature of claim 1.

Ohyama discloses a method of simultaneously displaying menus of different hierarchies in response to a user choosing a menu option on a television or remote controller of the television (Column 2, Lines 1-17). This allows a user to be able to visually discern menu information regarding the selections available through the menu, so that the user does not have to rely on memory to determine which menu was chosen to arrive at the current available functions (Column 1, Lines 15-47). While the selection items of the first hierarchy of the menu are displayed on a first region of the television screen, a lower menu which is of a lower hierarchy to the first hierarchy of the menu is displayed in a second region of the screen, and screen functions relating to the lower hierarchy menu may also be displayed.

However, the method disclosed in Ohyama is initiated in response to the user pressing a menu key on the television or remote control (Figure 2A). The Applicant respectfully submits that the menu key is available on almost any remote control device which is used to operate

modern audio visual equipment, and that any person skilled in the art would recognize that the menu operation is easily considered a "major function," as opposed to the "additional function" recited in claim 1 of the present application. In other words, the act of a user pressing a menu key on a remote controller is tantamount to the user choosing any of the other major functions available from the remote controller.

This is in direct contrast to claim 1 of the present application, which recites "a controller causing the additional function information stored in the memory unit to be displayed and causing an additional function that is selected based on the displayed additional function information to be performed, in response to the remote control signal containing a request to display the additional function information." Not only is the operation of the menu key disclosed in Ohyama a major function, but it also necessarily introduces at least one extra step of choosing a menu from the hierarchy, and more likely several steps, in the process of causing additional functions to be performed, whereas these extra steps are avoided in claim 1 of the present application.

In other words, the present invention divides the functions of an apparatus into major functions and additional functions, with the major functions being controlled directly using a corresponding function button on a remote control as in the conventional method, and the additional functions being controlled based on the displayed information. Conversely, Ohyama discloses hierarchically dividing functions of a TV, displaying a menu corresponding to the hierarchically divided function, and controlling the functions of the TV using the menu. However, Ohyama does not disclose a technical solution of controlling functions by dividing functions of a TV into the major functions and the additional functions. That is, Ohyama discloses a technical solution using a main menu and a sub menu, but the main menu is simply an upper menu of the sub menu, and the sub menu is a lower menu of the main menu. The Applicant respectfully submits that the main menu of Ohyama does not correspond to the major functions of the present invention, and the sub menu of Ohyama does not correspond to the additional functions of the present invention.

Therefore, Ohyama does not disclose at least the feature of "a controller causing the additional function information stored in the memory unit to be displayed and causing an additional function that is selected based on the displayed additional function information to be performed, in response to the remote control signal containing a request to display the additional function information." Accordingly, Ohyama does not disclose every element of the Applicant's claim 1. In order for a reference to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach each and every

element of the claim (MPEP §2131). Therefore, since Ohyama does not disclose the features recited in independent claim 1, as stated above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Ohyama, and withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection is earnestly and respectfully solicited.

Claims 2-12 depend from claim 1 of the present application and include all of the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by Ohyama. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-12 also patentably distinguish over Ohyama.

Claim 13 of the present application, as amended, recites “parsing a received remote control signal received from the remote control to determine whether the remote control signal is related to major function information or additional function information”, and “displaying information for available additional functions on the image processing apparatus if the remote control signal contains a request for displaying the additional function information.” Similar to the discussion of claim 1 of the present application, Ohyama does not disclose at least the feature of displaying information for available additional functions on the image processing apparatus if the remote control signal contains a request for displaying the additional function information. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 13 also patentably distinguishes over Ohyama.

Claims 14-19 depend from claim 13 of the present application and include all of the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by Ohyama. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 14-19 also patentably distinguish over Ohyama.

Claim 20 of the present application recites “a controller controlling the additional function information stored in the memory unit to be displayed and controlling an additional function that is selected based on the displayed additional function information to be performed, in response to the remote control signal containing a request to display the additional function information.” As discussed in regard to claim 1 of the present application, Ohyama does not disclose at least this feature of claim 20. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 20 also patentably distinguishes over Ohyama.

Claim 21 of the present application recites “a controller differentiating between major functions and additional functions in response to receiving a signal from the remote control, and causing additional function information to be displayed, and causing an additional function that is selected based on the displayed additional function information to be performed, in response to the remote control signal containing a request to display the additional function information.” As discussed previously in this Amendment, Ohyama does not disclose at least the feature of causing an additional function to be performed in response to the remote control signal

containing a request to display the additional function information. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 21 also patentably distinguishes over Ohyama.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §103

In item 4 on pages 7 and 18 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 7 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohyama in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,691,778, issued to Song (hereinafter referred to as "Song"). The Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections of these claims.

As discussed in the previous section of this Amendment, claims 1 and 13 patentably distinguish over Ohyama. Further, as Song does not cure the discussed deficiencies of Ohyama in regard to these claims, i.e., Song does not disclose or suggest the ability to divide the graphic-remote control displayed on a sub-screen of the TV into the major functions and the additional functions of the present invention, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 13 patentably distinguish over both of the cited references. As claims 7 and 18 depend from claims 1 and 13, respectively, it is further respectfully submitted that claims 7 and 18 also patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Summary

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 13 has been amended. No new matter has been presented. Thus, claims 1-21 remain pending and under consideration.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Serial No. 10/646,869

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 03/27/06

By: Thomas L. Jones
Thomas L. Jones
Registration No. 53,908

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501